according to the Commission it has received the following number of applications in the year mentioned:—

2006	2007	2008	2009 upto 27.7.2009
1684	950	1396	440

The number of educational institutions granted minority status by the National Commission for Minority Education Institutions (NCMEI) during the last three calendar years and the current calendar year (upto 27.7.2009) is 2082.

Establishment of engineering college at Bilaspur, Himachal Pradesh

3470. SHRIMATI VIPLOVE THAKUR: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government has decided to establish an engineering college specializing in hydro power technology, at Bilaspur, in Himachal Pradesh, with the association of National Hydro Power Corporation (NHPC), National Thermal Power Corporation Ltd. (NTPC) and Satluj Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd. (SJVNL);

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has agreed to bear the recurring cost since the graduates of this college will be employed by these corporations;

(d) if so, whether the terms and conditions on this account has been finalized;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI D. PURANDESWARI): (a) to (f) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Introduction of Nyaya Panchayat Bill

3471. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to introduce Nyaya Panchayat Bill;

(b) if so, whether the draft of the bill is ready;

(c) the essential features of the draft provisions;

(d) by what date the bill is likely to be introduced; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Establishment of Nyaya Panchayats in the country is under consideration of Union Government. The details are being worked out.

(d) and (e) No firm date for introduction of the Nyaya Panchayats Bill can be given as the details are being worked out.

Programmes and Schemes for Panchayati Raj

3472. SHRI SABIR ALI:
SHRI MOHAMMED ADEEB:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) the Programmes and Schemes to promote and strengthen Panchayati Raj in the country;

(b) the State which is best in performance in the matter of implementation of Panchayati Raj;

(c) the States where it is still to be fully implemented; and

(d) the incentives for proper implementation and development of Panchayati Raj in the country?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) to (d) Panchayati Raj is a States subject and accordingly the responsibility of promoting and strengthening Panchayati Raj lies with the State Governments. However, the Ministry of Panchayati Raj has schemes of Panchayat Empowerment and Accountability Incentive Scheme (PEIAS), Rashtriya Gram Sawraj Yojana, Panchayat Mahila and Yuva Shakti Abhiyan, Backward Regions (Grant Fund and Rural Business Hubs to support State Governments in this effort.

PEAIS encourages States in empowering PRIs by incentivizing devolution to Functions, Funds and Functionaries to PRIs and prizes are given to better performing States. For the year 2008-09, Madhya Pradesh, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Kerala, Karnataka, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Chhattisgarh and Assam got the prizes.

Financial assistance to local bodies

3473. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has given direct financial assistance to the municipal and panchayat bodies in Goa; and

(b) if so, the details of the financial assistance given to the village panchayats, zilla panchayats and the lone municipal body in the Goa in the last five years?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI C.P. JOSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.